

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4, 6, 7, 9 through 11, 14, 15, and 17 through 23 as follows:

1. (ORIGINAL) A plug member for retaining grout in a substantially cylindrical bore in underground excavations, characterised in that the plug member comprises a cap portion arranged to engage with walls of the bore, the plug member including means to wedge the cap portion within the bore, the cap portion including at least one aperture arranged to receive a load bearing member in a close fit, and the cap portion including at least one port arranged to receive a grout delivery means in a close fit, and a further port through which air may be vented.

2. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that at least one aperture is substantially bounded by at least one resilient member, the resilient member acting, in use, against the load bearing member to substantially prevent the leakage of grout.

3. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the resilient member comprises an enclosing means whereby the enclosing means substantially prevents the leakage of grout through the aperture when a load bearing member is not present.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterised in that at least one port is substantially bounded by at least one resilient member, the resilient member acting, in use, against the grout delivery means or air venting means to substantially prevent the leakage of grout.

5. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 4, characterised in that the resilient member comprises an enclosing means whereby the enclosing means substantially prevents the leakage of grout through the aperture when a grout delivery means or air venting means is not present.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2, characterised in that the enclosing means is comprised of a plurality of flexible flaps moveable between an open position and a closed position, wherein in the open position the flaps are engagable with an outer surface of the load bearing member, grout delivery means or air venting means and in the closed position the flaps inter-engage to substantially close the or each aperture or port and substantially prevent leakage of grout through the or each aperture or port.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, characterised in that the cap portion comprises a cylindrical portion provided with a lateral wall extending across a first circumferential rim of a leading end of the cylindrical portion.

8. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the lateral wall is curved concave or curved convex.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, characterised in that the means to wedge the cap portion within the bore comprises a continuous resilient skirt.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 8~~ as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the means to wedge the cap portion within the bore comprises a tapered bung.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 8~~ as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the means to wedge the cap portion within the bore comprises a plurality of downwardly inclined flaps depending from a second circumferential rim of an opposing end of the cylindrical portion.

12. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that the downwardly inclined flaps are substantially rectangularly shaped and are equidistantly and equiangularly spaced around the second circumferential rim such that a gap between adjacent flaps is substantially triangularly shaped.

13. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 12, characterised in that a thin triangularly shaped membrane extends between adjacent flaps.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11, 12 or 13~~ claim 11, characterised in that each flap is provided with an upwardly tilted flange depending from its lowermost edge.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8, characterised in. that any number of spaced cylindrical walls depend substantially perpendicularly from the lateral wall extending across the first circumferential rim

of the cylindrical portion.

16. (ORIGINAL) A plug member as claimed in claim 15, characterised in that the cylindrical walls are disposed adjacent to the first circumferential rim.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~claims 15 or 16~~ claim 15, characterised in that the cylindrical walls are interconnected by a web member.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15, characterised in that the cylindrical walls are provided with respective ribs to stabilise the cylindrical walls with respect to the cap portion.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15, characterised in that the cylindrical wall defines a circular portion of the lateral wall, the circular portion being provided with a plurality of linear radial grooves extending from a central axis of the circular portion, thereby defining a plurality of triangular portions, whereby the grooves are adapted to be perforated or piercable such that the triangular portions form and behave in use as flexible flaps.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15, characterised in that the cylindrical wall defines a circular aperture in the lateral wall, the circular aperture being provided with a plurality of inwardly extending serrations.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 20~~ claim 8, characterised in that the or each port is disposed in the lateral wall of the cap portion.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 21~~ claim 8, wherein the flexible flaps of the or each port are substantially equal sized triangular portions spaced equiangularly within a circular indentation in the cap portion.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plug member as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, characterised in that the plug member is formed from a semi-rigid material.

24. (ORIGINAL) A method of retaining grout in a substantially cylindrical bore in underground excavations, the method comprising the steps of inserting a plug member having a cap portion into the cylindrical bore, wedging the cap portion within the bore, inserting a load bearing member in the plug member, inserting a grout delivery means into the plug member, and venting air through a port in the plug member.